

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Shelby Plooster
1st V.P. Burles Johnson
2nd V.P. Tommy Rhoden
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July, 2021

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, July. 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 PM

Indoor Meetings have returned with wearing Face Masks, optional

Club Meeting Calendar for 2021

Jan. 21	May 20	Sep. 16
Feb. 18	June 17	Oct. 21
Mar. 18	July 15	Nov. 18
Apr. 15	Aug. 19	Dec. 16

An 1861 Indian Head cent is 140 Years old



An 1861 copper-nickel Indian Head cent graded MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to 150% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

From 1859 thru 1864, the Indian Head cent was struck in copper-nickel instead of Bronze. The design type was created by James Barton Longacre who became the 4th Chief Engraver of the United States Mint upon the death of Christian Gobrecht in 1844. In 1861, the copper nickel cent had a mintage of just 10,100,000, the lowest of the five year copper-nickel series and while it is not considered a scarce date as a collectable, it isn't as common as the other copper-nickel cents in the series and is

Due to the plethora of bronze Civil War tokens that more often than not featured a crude version of the Indian Head design on the obverse in 1863, Congress issued a moratorium on the tokens and authorized the Philadelphia Mint to start striking Bronze Indian head cents in mid 1864.

As for the 1861 copper-nickel coin shown above, the author acquired it eleven years ago at the Augusta Coin Club spring show held on May 7, 2010 which at that time was held at Patriot's Park in Columbia County off Columbia Road and William Few Parkway. At the time, an 1861 Indian Head copper nickel cent certified MS-64 was retailing for \$450. Today it has just about doubled in value, retailing for around \$850 to \$900 according to **PCGS'** on line **COINFACT** records. For those who feel more financially comfortable acquiring a circulated 1861 copper nickel Indian Head cent, **COINFACT** lists an AU-58 at \$225, an AU-50 at \$185 and an XF-45 at just \$125.

Collecting US Coin Types by Mint Engravers Chronologically by Arno Safran Part One



A 1798 Draped Bust Large cent, S-167, R1, graded VF-25
[Enlarge page to 150% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

Our first official Chief Engraver of the United States Mint was Robert Scot, who emigrated from Edinburgh, Scotland to the United States in 1775. He was appointed Chief Engraver of the United States Mint in October of 1793 by President George Washington and was best known for his creation of the **Draped Bust** design on the obverses of many of our early coinage. While even the commonest dates of our early coinage are very expensive, the **1798 Draped Bust cent, Variety S-167** is perhaps the most common of the series which was first coined in 1796 and last struck in 1807. **The reverses** on Scot's half-cents and large cents featured a **laurel wreath** with the Legend **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** surrounding it with the denomination place in the center. At the very bottom of the reverse the fraction 1/100 appeared on the cent and 1/200 on the half-cent indicating how many would equal the value of one dollar. For the earliest silver and gold coins, a slightly different variant of the Draped Bust figure of Liberty appeared on the obverse while the reverse featured a small scrawny eagle which was later replaced by a Heraldic eagle on a shield shown with the motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** shown across the neck of the eagle. (No known pics of the engraver exist.)



An 1805 Draped Bust half-dollar, O-112, R2 graded XF-45 by NGC
[Enlarge page to 150% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

Collecting US Coin Types by various Mint Engravers Part One

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



A Set of 1808 US coinage designed by Asst. Engraver John Reich (Excluding the two gold issues) the half-cent, cent and half-dollar [Enlarge page to 200% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

In 1800, John Reich, a talented engraver from the German State of Bavaria--where the city of Munich is located--arrived in the United States. Thomas Jefferson was made aware of his talent as early as 1801 but it wasn't until 1807 during Jefferson's second term as third president of our nation that he asked Reich to serve as Asst. Engraver to Robert Scot who was supposedly suffering from eye trouble. (No known pics exist!)

Some historians believe this was a political appointment as Jefferson belonged to the Democratic-Republican Party which believed in states-rights as opposed to the Federalist Party of Washington and John Adams who considered the central government had full authority in governance. **As a result, Reich's function as an assistant engraver turned out to be anything but since he was ordered to redesign all ten of our coinage denominations.** Regardless of the politics, Reich produced magnificent coin designs which primarily featured a **Classic Head** version of Miss Liberty on the obverses of both the copper denominations and a Capped Bust figure of Miss Liberty on the silver and gold ones. The reverses of the copper silvered and gold issues maintained similar if not exact replicas of the wreath without a bow near the bottom with the fractions being removed. On the silver coinage, the Heraldic eagle was replaced by a spread eagle with the wings curved downwards with a smaller shield in the center whereas the on the reverse of the gold denomination, the wings were spread upwards. The motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** is arched above on both.



An 1807 Capped Bust \$5.00 half-eagle graded AU-58 by NGC [Enlarge page to 200% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

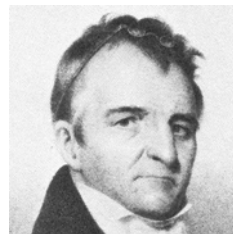


An 1816 Coronet cent, N-2, R1 graded MS-64 by NGC [Enlarge page to 200% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

After the Treaty of Ghent was signed on Dec. 24, 1814, which technically brought the so-called War of 1812 between America and Great Britain to an end, the Classic Head cent was replaced by the Coronet, sometimes referred to as the Matron Head. Despite extensive research by numismatic scholars Robert Julian and others, the jury is still out as to whether it was Reich or Scot who designed the new large cent type. In January of 1816, a fire broke out at the Philadelphia Mint with the result that no coins were dated 1816. Before the fire however 2,820,982 Coronet cents dated 1816 were released in December of 1815. As Assistant Chief Mint Engraver, to Chief Engraver, Robert Scot, John Reich never received what he considered to be his fair due, because despite redesigning all the copper, silver and gold coins that were put into circulation during his tenure, (1807-17) he never received an increase in his \$600 annual salary nor any respect from his superior Robert Scot, and so, he resigned in 1817. As a result, he is not listed as one of our chief engravers. No pictures exist of Scot or Reich.



An 1831 Bust half-dime, dime, quarter & half by William Kneass



William Kneass

In 1823, Robert Scot passed away and William Kneass was appointed our second chief engraver. During his tenure (1824-1835), he made subtle changes to the Classic Head half-cent when it resurfaced in 1825 after a suspension of 24 years. In 1828, a newly designed close-collar device was inserted into the screw press in order for each denomination to retain its specific

assigned diameter. The dime was followed by the resumption of the half-dime in 1829. In 1831, William Kneass reduced the size of the quarter from 27mm to 23.4 mm, the same as today. He slightly reshaped the Capped Bust visage of Liberty and removed the motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** from above the spread eagle design on the reverse.

(Continued on page 3, column one)

Collecting US Coin Types by various Mint Engravers Part One

(Continued from page 2, column 2)



The official third Chief Mint Director of the US Mint was Christian Gobrecht but his appointment to that position did not actually occur until 1840 despite the fact that as early as 1823—shortly after Robert Scot died--Gobrecht was asked to fulfill Scot's duties. Despite his excellent capabilities, he was passed over in 1824 when William Kneass was assigned the second Chief Engraver's

position. When Kneass suffered a stroke in 1835, Gobrecht was once again asked to serve, this time as Asst. Engraver taking on such tasks beginning in 1835 as making small adjustments to the Coronet large-cent--which continued thru 1839. Gobrecht's greatest achievement was in creating the magnificent Liberty Seated dollar based on the sketches made the previous year by renewed painters Thomas Sully and Titian Peale.



An 1836 Gobrecht dollar graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge page to 200% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

During the next four years Gobrecht's dollar design would be placed on all our silver coinage in slightly alternated ways, unfortunately diminishing the beauty of Gobrecht's original design. with design changes appearing in the same year.



The 1837 transition of Capped bust dimes and half-dimes with eagle on reverse to Liberty Seated with wreath on reverse



1838 Capped Bust and Liberty Seated quarter obverses

Notice that by 1838, the 13 stars once again appear around the Liberty Seated quarter but not on the dimes or half-dimes of 1837. In 1839, the half-dollar would receive the same changes and by 1840, the silver dollar would as well



An 1849 Liberty Seated dollar graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge page to 150% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

By the time the 1840 dated silver dollars appeared, all of the Liberty Seated coin denominations--with the exception of the half-dollar obverse--had been substantially altered--although not by Gobrecht as the example of the **1849 dollar** above displays. Gobrecht however would become the third Chief Engraver of the Mint in 1840.



Despite the controversy some numismatic scholars have had regarding whether the Gobrecht dollar trials of 1838 and 1839 actually occurred in those years and not as restrikes in the 1850s or 1860s, it appears that as early as 1838, the Mint was having difficulties striking the Soaring eagle on the reverse of the Gobrecht dollar.

Robert Ball Hughes--a noted engraver whom had recently arrived from England--began making adjustments on Gobrecht's obverse design. The thirteen stars--absent from the 1836 dollar and 1837 and 1838-O Liberty Seated dimes--were placed on the obverses of the 1838-P dime and quarters. Hughes also flattened out the facial and torso features of Miss Liberty and on the half-dimes and dimes, the slanted shield was made upright later that year. Most regrettably, the magnificent soaring eagle on the 1836 dollar reverse was replaced by John Reich's spread-eagle that first saw the light of day in 1807. Finally, as Chief engraver, one of Gobrecht's final enhancements occurred in 1843 with the large cent.



The 1843 transitional dates Braided Hair large cents
Showing the *Petite Head* at left and the *Mature Head* on the right

Collecting US Coin Types by various Mint Engravers Part One

(Continued from page 3, column 2)

Gobrecht became mint director in 1840, but during the period of William Kneass's inability to function, Gobrecht became responsible for preparing new designs for our gold coinage which were similar in style to his Braided Hair Mature head copper coinage. After a hiatus of 34 years, the \$10.00 half-eagle suspended back in 1804 was resurrected. Its diameter was reduced from Robert Scot's Draped Bust design which was 33mm to 27mm for the thicker Liberty Head type, the same width as the Bust quarters struck from 1815 thru 1828. This was followed by the \$5.00 half-eagle in 1839 replacing Kneass's Classic Head design first coined in 1834. Finally, in 1840, the \$2.50 Quarter eagle with a slightly cruder version of Kneass's Classic Head type with Gobrecht's Liberty Head design in 1840.



The three Liberty Head gold denomination types

In 1844, after serving as Chief Engraver of the US Mint only three plus years, Christian Gobrecht past away at age 58. While he didn't create many new coinage designs, his design of the Liberty Seated silver coinage represented a historic artistic change from our early types. Upon the death of Gobrecht, James Barton Longacre became the 4th Chief Mint Engraver and his tenure lasted almost twenty-five years. During that time frame, he produced more US coin types than any of his predecessors. His three most popular coin designs are the Flying Eagle small cent which replaced the large cent in 1857 and the Indian Head cent which replaced the Flying Eagle cent in 1859, but in the writer's opinion, his greatest numismatic achievement came as early as 1850 when the first gold double eagle coin was placed into circulation and was struck though 1907.



James Barton Longacre



An 1898-S Coronet Double Eagle graded MS-63 CAC by NGC

[Enlarge page to 150% or monitor screen for clearer images.]

To be continued!

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING June 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by Vice President, Burles Johnson. We had 42 members and 2 guests present. Burles Johnson added the meeting to Zoom so everybody can look at the meeting anywhere.

Secretary's Report:

The May 20, 2021 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$16,750.72 deposited in the checking account.

Prize Winners:

The 2021 silver eagle drawings went to Winner of the 50/50 raffle was William Fishburn (\$65.00).

The Program:

Steve Kuhl, second Vice President of the South Carolina Numismatic Association, presented a program titled "The St. Albans Raid in Vermont"

The St. Albans Raid in Vermont was the northernmost field of action of the Confederacy during the Civil War between the states. Some soldiers escaped from Union prisons and fled to Canada. The mission for a band of 21 Confederate soldiers was to rob banks to raise money and strike fear in the Union households. Twenty-two raiders planned to rob three banks: The First National, St. Albans and the Franklin County banks for about \$208,000. The raiders escaped to Canada where the Canadians would not return the raiders to the United States but did return \$88,000. The raid killed a local, got the money and made it back to Canada. I think it put fear in the Union eyes to let them know that they would not be safe anywhere but in reality; it had no outcome on the Civil War.

2021 Augusta Coin Club Medallion and 2022 Red Books

Winner of our 2021 Augusta Coin Club Medallion is the Augusta Skyline. They should be available at our July meeting. The 2022 **Red Books** are on sale for \$10.00 for wire bound and \$12.00 copies. Anyone that gives a program will be eligible for a drawing for a one-tenth gold coin.

Area Shows:

Monthly Atlanta Show Atlanta, GA
July 11, 2021

Warner Robins Coin Show Warner Robins, GA
July 23 -24, 2021

Coin Auction:

Burles Johnson ran the auction (14 lots). John Mason and others delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

The Series of 1899 \$1.00 silver Certificate



A Series of 1899 \$2.00 silver certificate
[Enlarge page to 150% or to fit monitor screen.]

The *Series of 1899* \$2.00 large size bank note was printed far into the 1920s and shows another artistic example that displays the classical stylized images somewhat reminiscent of the painters of the Renaissance or Romantic era that followed. **On the face of the note** shown, the upper portion of George Washington appears in the lower center surrounded by two smaller allegorical figures of a man and a woman representing **mechanics** and **agriculture**. G. F.C. Smillie was the engraver and one of the major artists who worked at the Mint during this period.

The face of the note also features a large bluish 2 that appears in the space on the left with a blue shield of similar size at the right while the legend, **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** is seen is boldly framed in the upper center surrounded by two curl based number twos.

The back of the note displays an ornate green rectangular frame showing four large number twos in each corner with an oval shield centered on a white based area; typical of the style used during the late 19th century.

The difference between a legal tender note and a silver certificate of the same value is that a person holding the **\$2.00 silver certificate could exchange it at the bank for two Morgan dollars** instead of two one dollar bills during the period they were in circulation.

Despite its long tenure, a collector wishing to own a *Series of 1899* \$2.00 silver certificate will find high-end circulated to uncirculated graded specimens beyond their means, opting for the more affordable ones within the **VG to Fine** range unless one cannot resist acquiring a more attractive **VF-20** example, which is on the cusp of affordability of most middle-class collectors perhaps the upper limit for most collectors interested in large size US paper money today.

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